

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**1930 9<sup>th</sup> STREET

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**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Specific Guidance #1****Establish Protocols and Procedures for Standard Barrier and Droplet Precautions for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)****April 23, 2009**

Consistent with CDPH guidance, EMS workers providing care for patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) should use appropriate standard barrier precautions and droplet precautions, based upon the circumstances of the case. EMS workers and providers should follow their usual responder infection control/protection procedures and patient care protocols based upon direction from the LEMSA medical director.

**Situational Guidance**

1. In the most common situation where EMS workers are providing care for patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) who are not known contacts of a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case:
  - Absent specific patient care protocols locally for this situation, EMSA recommends standard barrier precautions for routine patient care plus droplet precautions (i.e., use of a surgical or procedure mask) for procedures that require close patient contact.
    - Standard barrier precautions include hand hygiene and the use of eye protection if splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids (including respiratory secretions) are anticipated.
    - Droplet precautions include all the standard barrier precautions plus the use of a surgical or procedure mask for procedures that require close contact.
2. In the event that an EMS worker is providing care for a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case, or an ill close contact of a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case, precautions should include:
  - Wear a fit-tested N95 respirator, disposable gloves, gown, and eye protection (face shield or goggles).
  - Before and after contact with the patient, clean hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand gel.

**Ensure Minimum Personal Protective Equipment**

EMS providers, both emergency and non-emergency, should ensure that they have the equipment and supplies readily available to meet any local requirements for Personal Protective Equipment and the EMSA #216 policy regarding minimum equipment for personal protective equipment.